



# SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association  
for January 2024



## Two YL's Receive MARA's Ham of the Year

The MARA's Year End luncheon held at J. R. Maxwell's restaurant in Bath had two very worthy MARA members receive the Ham of The Year honors. Since MARA/KS1R Trustee Bruce Randall, W1ZE as usual selected the recipients. This year Bruce stated that there were several club members that were deserving of the honor but when it came down to the final two he couldn't pick one or the other. So as has been done before he selected the final two. And this year it happened to be two young ladies (YL) and they were:

Shauna Buckmore, K1ALZ of West Gardner  
and Marjorie Turner, KX1I of Brunswick.



Marjorie (KX1I), Trustee Bruce (W1ZE) & Shauna (K1ALZ)

Both awards read:

*You have demonstrated your enthusiasm and dedication to the Amateur Radio community here on mid coast Maine. Your willingness to step in and help the MARA and Mid Coast ARES has not gone unnoticed by your fellow amateur radio operators. We appreciate you going the extra mile. Well done!*



## FREE HEATHKIT SB-220 KW+ AMPLIFIER LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

JACK GELFAND, K2BMI has a clean SB-220 amplifier that needs minor repair and willing to give it to someone that will give it a good home. If interested you can contact Jack at: [gelfand@oswego.edu](mailto:gelfand@oswego.edu). New owner will need to pick it up at his QTH location at:

13 Harris Avenue Portland, ME 04103

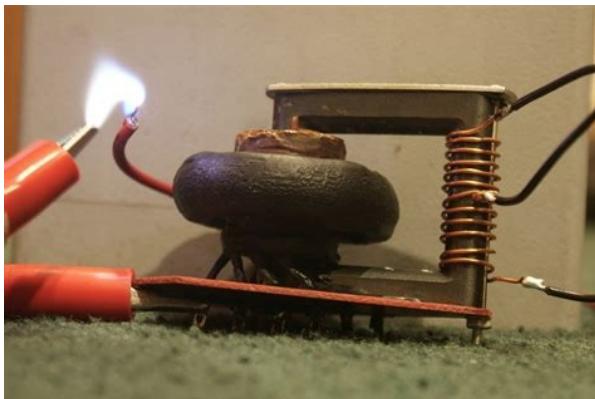


# MAKE AN EFFECTIVE HF BALUN FROM OLD TV HV FLYBACK TRANSFORMER

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

What in the heck is a flyback transformer you may ask?

Well, before the modern day flat screen TV sets and computer monitors these video devices user vacuum cathode ray tubes (CRTs). These big tubes needed a high voltage to illuminate and make easily viewed screens. This high voltage was generated with the aid of a flyback transformer. These transformers used a square loop iron ferrite core with the primary and secondary transformer coils wrapped around the core.



These flyback ferrite loops by themselves make a very nice core to wind a BALUN or UnUn on and if wound with No.14 or 12 insulated copper wire they can handle 100+ watts of RF power.

OK, where can you get old flyback transformers? Most likely you will not easily find them cheap on the Internet, but maybe on sites like eBay or at ham flea markets could be a source. I remove them from old discarded TV sets and computer monitors in the electronic trash bin at the town transfer (dump) station. I take them home, scrap out the flyback and maybe other usable parts then return what is left back to the dump.

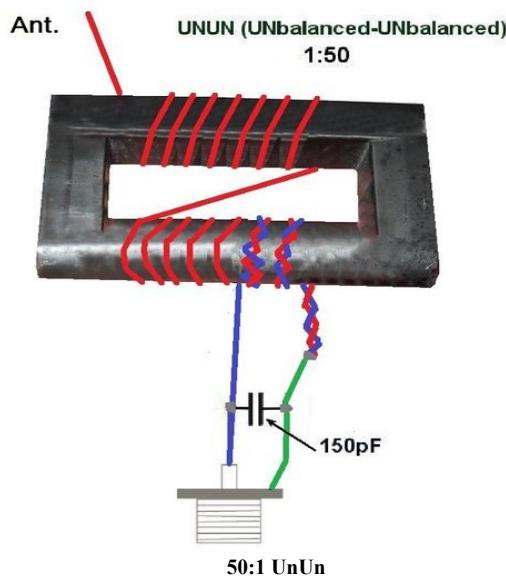
Most flyback cores sections are glued together making coil removal somewhat difficult. I use a hack or coping saw to cut through both sides of the coils taking care not to damage or break the

core. After that is done you have just the square ferrite core ready to wind your BALUN or UnUn on. Depending on the individual transformer you may be able to separate the two half's at the glue joints for easier coil removal.

You can wind 1:1, 9:1, 4:1, etc BALUN & UnUn onto the square core as you would a toroid wound balun. Diagrams on how to do this can be found on the Internet.



4:1 BALUN on flyback core



Toroid cores are relatively inexpensive but old flyback cores are really cheap, maybe even FREE!.



# 2024 ARRL National Convention to be at Hamvention

ARRL and Hamvention® have announced that Hamvention will host the 2024 ARRL National Convention, May 17, 18, and 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention is the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs and has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) since 1952.

"We are pleased to unveil our 2024 logo and theme," announced 2024 Hamvention General Chair Jim Storms, AB8YK, and the Hamvention team. "The theme is 'Expanding our Community'. This is in support of the growth of amateur radio worldwide."

Hamvention Awards Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI, also shared a reminder that the nomination period is open to submit nominations for 2024 Hamvention Awards, including the Amateur of the Year, Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, and Club of the Year awards. More information about the awards can be found on the Hamvention website, and nominations will close on February 15, 2024.

ARRL is building a program for its National Convention that will include presentations and forums, more than a dozen exhibits, and activities for young hams. Once finalized, the National Convention program will be published at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo).

Hamvention urged "everyone to purchase their tickets and make their room reservations early to avoid the rush." Visit the Hamvention website for more information and to order tickets at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org).



**We want to wish all  
Squelch Tales  
readers a very**



